

Attachment to the Action Tracker regarding Pharmacy opening times

We acknowledge that Sunday opening for pharmacies is less extensive than the rest of the week, with six open across Hackney in addition to provision in neighbouring boroughs. Although some localities lack a pharmacy with Sunday opening hours, the needs assessment notes that short travel times in Hackney allows adequate access to pharmacies in neighbouring localities.

With regards to the long term ambitions for the role of pharmacists in Hackney, the role of community pharmacy across City & Hackney is evolving. In addition to the more well-known aspects of the current national and regional contracts for community pharmacists (including vaccination services and the [Pharmacy Quality Scheme](#)), the national [community pharmacy contractual framework \(CPCF\) agreement](#) for 2019 – 2024 sets out the ambition for developing new clinical services for community pharmacy as part of the five-year commitment. Related to this, the Pharmacy Integration Fund (PhIF) was established in 2016 to accelerate the integration of:

- Pharmacy professionals across health and care systems to deliver medicines optimisation for patients as part of an integrated system;
- Clinical pharmacy services into primary care networks building on the NHS Five Year Forward View and NHS Long Term Plan

Some of the clinical services that have been developed under the PhIF and already being provided by City & Hackney pharmacies include

- The [GP referral pathway to the NHS Community Pharmacist Service \(CPCS\)](#)
- The [Discharge Medicines Service](#)
- The [Hypertension Case-Finding Pilot](#) – members of the public over 40 years can have their blood pressure checked by the community pharmacy team. For those with high blood pressure, they will be offered ambulatory blood pressure monitoring (ABPM) and then, where appropriate, referred to their GP;

PhIF areas in the pipeline and anticipated to be available in the next 6 months include:

- The NHS 111 and A&E / urgent treatment centre referral pathway to the [NHS Community Pharmacist Consultation Service \(CPCS\)](#)
- Continuation of supply of oral contraceptives - Tier 1 of [routine monitoring and supply of contraception \(including some long-acting reversible contraceptives\) in community pharmacy](#);
- The [Smoking Cessation Transfer of Care Pilot](#) – hospital inpatients (including antenatal inpatients) will be able to continue their stop smoking journey within community pharmacy upon discharge
- Expansion of the existing [New Medicines Service \(NMS\)](#) to include antidepressants

Areas in the pipeline and anticipated to be available in next 12 months plus include :

- Initiation of oral contraception - Tier 2 of [routine monitoring and supply of contraception \(including some long-acting reversible contraceptives\) in community pharmacy](#);
- Structured medication reviews in PCNs for people with a learning disability, autism or both, linking with the [STOMP programme](#)

- *By 2026 all pharmacy graduates – so including all new community pharmacists will be independent prescribers so offering a significant opportunity with regards to appropriate primary care access to prescription only medicines; across City & Hackney community pharmacists also have access to patients' electronic health records which will facilitate safer prescribing by community pharmacists to our patients and residents. Independent prescribing training is also being offered to currently registered community pharmacists.*

Enablers at NEL ICS level

NEL ICB is in the process of recruiting a Community Pharmacist Clinical Lead Pharmacist – a fixed term post funded by NHSE – whose remit will include ensuring organisations and providers across NEL maximise the opportunities offered by the above pharmacy services. Delegation of the Community Pharmacy contract to Integrated Care Boards from April 2023 should catalyse these developments.

In addition to the above current and pending NHSE services, the following services are also currently locally commissioned by NEL ICB from C&H pharmacies for local patients

- *Palliative Care and end of life medicines supply service*
- *Minor ailments service – enabling those eligible (20 conditions, medicines free for those eligible by low income/ benefits/ asylum seeker-refugee status), this locally commissioned service supports the successful implementation of the afore mentioned GP referral into CPCS and helps to reduce some of the inequalities re costs of accessing over the counter medicines.*

In terms of challenges to expanding the role of community pharmacies, ensuring a sustainable funding model to support the necessary workforce is an ongoing issue raised at a national level.

The steering group feels that NHS England is better positioned to answer some elements of these questions and we will escalate them to the London pharmacy contract team, feeding back any response to the board.